

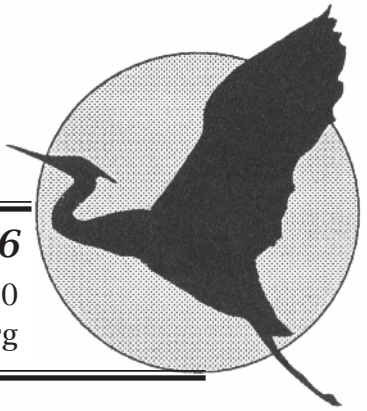
Voice of the Haw



The Haw River Assembly *December 2016*

P.O. Box 187 · Bynum, NC 27228 · (919) 542-5790

email: info@hawriver.org · www.hawriver.org



Our 35th Year – Working Together!

The Haw River Assembly will turn 35 in 2017!

Since 1982 we have worked to protect the Haw River and Jordan Lake. We have succeeded in growing our organization throughout the river basin, have challenged polluters, and we have fought to protect our waters wherever problems have arisen.

- ❖ We have over 400 volunteers every year that help us teach children about our river, who take part in stream monitoring as guardians of our waterways, and hundreds who come out each March to get the trash out of our waters.

- ❖ We have successfully partnered with organizations and local and state government to help create thousands of acres of parklands, and new trails and paddle access on our river.

- ❖ Our advocacy work as Haw Riverkeeper has challenged developers whose projects threaten our waters, worked for better sediment control practices, successfully negotiated with Burlington to fix its sewer system, and won a temporary injunction to stop fracking permits from being issued in NC.

- ❖ We published the first state-wide examination of how sewage sludge is bringing industrial chemicals into our waters.

- ❖ We have become a more diverse organization, partnering with community groups for environmental justice.

But this anniversary comes at a time of great concerns, following the November elections, for the future of environmental protections. We have had a tough eight years under a state government dominated by those who have weakened and eliminated many rules and programs for clean water. At this point there really is no

plan in North Carolina to clean up the pollution entering Jordan Lake, or to face the drastic changes that lie ahead as climate change increasingly takes its toll. Will 2017 see these same actions at the federal level, with attacks on the EPA and Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act and more? These federal agencies and regulations are the backbone of many of our state laws, and without them our watershed, our country and our planet are in peril.

What we do know is that we are not backing down.

- ❖ We will continue to fight for environmental justice, strong communities, and healthy waterways.

- ❖ We will continue to hold polluters accountable.

- ❖ We will continue to fight for swimmable, drinkable, and fishable water everywhere.

- ❖ We will not stand by while industries push to weaken laws and to provide polluters with exemptions from environmental regulation.

As a grassroots organization, we will be depending on you – our members, supporters and volunteers – to

help us carry on this work. We are stronger together. At the same time, we must find ways to expand our message for clean water to all people.

We owe it to future generations to work for clean water and healthy communities.

Let's celebrate our 35th year working together, and make sure we have many more.



At the Haw River Learning Celebration, passionate volunteers share their love for the river with students from our watershed. (Read about this year's LC on pages 4 and 5). Photo by Milada Vachudova

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To join the Haw River Assembly or
 renew your membership, send a check to:

**HRA, P.O. Box 187,
 Bynum, NC 27228.**

Individual: \$25; Family: \$40

Sustaining: \$50; Heron Circle: \$100 & above

Low Income: \$10

*The Haw River
 Assembly is a non-
 profit grassroots
 organization founded
 in 1982. Our mission
 is to protect and
 restore the Haw River,
 its tributaries, and
 Jordan Lake; and to
 build a community
 that shares this vision.*
(919) 542-5790
www.hawriver.org



Notes from the Haw

We had a great HRA Annual Membership meeting November 5 in Saxapahaw! It was a beautiful day on the river, and it's always fantastic to be inside the Paperhand Puppet studio, surrounded by creative art work! We send big thanks to Donovan Zimmerman and Jan Burger for letting us use their space. Chris Carter, our Board president, led a walk along the river, pointing out amazing vines growing in the riparian area. Emily Sutton led a river monitoring demonstration for folks down on Saxapahaw Island, with help from Maja Krickler. And big thanks to Jane Cairnes for opening up the new Saxapahaw Museum so our members could take a tour (the Museum is regularly open Monday - Friday, 10 am to 5 pm).

Our keynote speaker, Danielle Purifoy, spoke to us about "In Conditions of Fresh Water," an oral history/multi-media project she has created with Torkwase Dyson. It examines the decades-long struggle of black historic communities in Lowndes County, Alabama, and Alamance County, NC, for environmental justice and clean water. Ms. Purifoy is a lawyer and current Ph.D candidate at Duke University in Environmental Politics and African-American studies. You can find out more about this project at <https://arts.duke.edu/artsjournal/taking-environmental-legacy-racism>.

We elected our new Board for 2017, and welcome two new members, Gloria White-James, a retired teacher from Alamance County, and Raj Butalia, an environmental scientist from Chatham County. We thank all our returning Board members for their continued efforts for our organization and river. We are sorry to say farewell to two retiring board members, Sam Berryhill and Daniel Sigmon. We have benefitted greatly from their knowledge and work over the years. Daniel will continue to lead stream monitoring teams in Alamance and we hope that Sam will continue to be one of our terrific canoe guides for kids at the Haw River Festival. Thanks for all you have given!

We plan to kick off the New Year with a hike along the Lower Haw River State Natural Area on January 8 (see our Events calendar on page 8). If you are not getting email updates from us for events and issues, you can sign up for our E-newsletter by sending a message to "info@hawriver.org" with the subject line "Subscribe".

From the river, Elaine Chiosso, HAW RIVERKEEPER®



Photo by Milada Vacudova



Photo by Elaine Chiosso

Danielle Purifoy gives the keynote speech at the annual HRA Membership meeting in Saxapahaw.



HAW RIVERKEEPER®

Issues in the Watershed

from Elaine Chiosso, HAW RIVERKEEPER®

Coal Ash goes to court in Chatham

On November 14 Superior Court Judge Carl Fox heard the appeal of an Administrative Judge's decision to deny a challenge to the solid waste and mining permits for the new Chatham and Lee County coal ash landfills. The state has approved allowing 20 million tons of coal ash from Duke Energy coal plants in other parts of the state to be moved into old clay/shale pits in these counties. Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, Chatham Citizens Against Coal Ash Dump and EnvironmentalLEE brought the challenge after permits were issued by the NC Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in June 2015. The current issue is whether this is regulated as structural fill, as currently designated, or a hazardous waste landfill which would have more stringent standards. HRA is concerned that the Chatham coal ash depository in Brickhaven threatens waters of Shaddox Creek, a tributary of the Haw River. Judge Fox asked the state lawyers a very important question: how can a hazardous material in one place become "beneficial" in a new place (as structural fill)? His decision is expected soon.

Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Walks were held on November 19 in Robeson, Nash and Cumberland counties to stop the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. People gathered and marched to voice concerns about the impact of the proposed \$5 billion Atlantic Coast Pipeline, planned by Dominion Resources and Duke Energy, that will bring fracked gas from West Virginia through Virginia to eastern North Carolina. It will endanger communities, homes, farms, wetlands and rivers along its entire 550 mile route. Pipeline infrastructure that allows more fracked gas to be delivered contributes to climate change, and to extreme weather events like Hurricane Matthew, which devastated some of the counties which the ACP is proposed to pass through. Individuals, communities, and organizations in the three states are coming together to prevent its construction. Closer to home we have concerns about the safety of Colonial Pipeline, which crosses through the Haw River watershed, bringing petroleum products from Texas to NJ. There were two major explosions on this pipeline in Alabama this fall, killing and injuring several workers and causing destruction nearby.

Sewage Spills in our Watershed

Three sewage systems reported spills into tributaries of the Haw River this fall. The City of Graham had a raw sewage spill of 115,200 gallons on Sept. 10 from the pump station at Ingold Drive in the southwestern edge of town. It was apparently caused by grease build-up causing pumps to overflow into Boyd Creek, then into Little Alamance Creek and the Haw River. The City of Burlington had an

overflow of approximately 20,800 gallons of partially treated wastewater on Sept. 28 at the East Burlington Wastewater Treatment Plant located at 225 Stone Quarry Road. The overflow, caused by an influx of rainwater which led to excessive flow above the design capacity of the plant, discharged 8,000 gallons into the Haw River. Another sewage spill was reported on October 5, from a broken force main in a private system owned by Aqua America in Carolina Meadows, in northeast Chatham near upper Jordan Lake. Eleven thousand gallons of raw sewage reached a tributary of Morgan Creek. These spills are a frequent and ongoing problem resulting in raw sewage, with its pathogens and other pollutants, entering surface waters where wildlife, pets

and people come into contact with it. More frequent inspections of sewer collection lines, better grease prevention programs, and systems designed to withstand flooding would substantially reduce the number of these spills.

In Memory of Steve Wing

We lost a wonderful friend, long-time HRA member, and internationally known champion for environmental justice when Steve Wing died from cancer on November 9 in his Chatham home, surrounded by loving family. Steve was professor of epidemiology at the UNC-CH School of Public Health where he had been a member of the faculty since 1985. In the many

tributes made to Steve before his death, repeated references were made to his passionate advocacy for social justice and tenacity in the face of injustice. He believed that science should benefit people, not corporate profits, and was well known for his fight alongside communities against the pollution from factory hog farms in NC. Steve brought together researchers, scientists and activists, including HRA, to investigate and seek solutions to the problem of industrial chemicals entering our waters through sewage sludge and effluent. Steve was also a great jazz pianist, playing with many bands and musicians in the region – and graciously playing at HRA benefits over the years. Our hearts are saddened by this great loss, and our thoughts, sympathy and love are with his wife, Betsy Wing, and their family. Donations in his name may be made to the NC Environmental Justice Network, P.O. Box 68, Rocky Mount, NC 27802.



"This is not about one person, but about a broader movement. Everything I've done has been collaborative." Steve Wing

The 2016 Learning Celebration

Over the course of the 3-week program at the 27th annual Haw River Learning Celebration, we hosted nearly 1,200 students from 17 different schools!

Our week in Bynum was a harmonious mix of new and returning schools and volunteers. We enjoyed warm, sunny weather during our site setup and training days (as well as several visits from Clyde Jones), but storm clouds rolled in before students arrived. Thanks to the big top tent from our friends at Shakori Hills, we managed to stay dry and keep the program running. Enthusiastic students donned ponchos to sneak a peek at the river when the weather allowed. On Wednesday night, neighbors braved the storm to stop by our site for a community sing, and on Thursday, volunteers showcased their skills at our first crew talent show of the year. Friday's pack out went smoothly, and with all hands on deck, we loaded our U-Haul and headed up river to Saxapahaw.

In Saxapahaw, we enjoyed 3 beautiful program days on lush, shaded trails. We stumbled upon turtles, frogs, and an abundance of colorful mushrooms throughout the week. Students were mesmerized by the engaging learning stations and the well trained band of puppeteers. Volunteers spent their evenings on guided paddling trips, swimming, and chatting around the camp fire. As hurricane Matthew blew in, we hauled our equipment to the Paperhand Puppet studio for our last program day. All of our student groups made it outside to check out the river during breaks in the rain. When our last students headed home, crew members worked diligently to break down our site in the rain, all the while sending positive thoughts to those affected by the hurricane.



from Alex White, Watershed Education Coordinator

Photos on this page and next page by Miliada Vachudova



At Camp Guilrock, we received a warm welcome from Jason Boggs, the new camp director, and his cheerful family. They joined us for a dinner and stopped by the trail to check out our program. We had some cool mornings, and the clear skies allowed us to spend all four program days out on the trails, along with enthusiastic teachers and dedicated parent chaperones. Our small crew of experienced LC veterans banded together to create an experience that students will never forget.

For the 27th year in a row, the Haw River Learning Celebration brought a passionate group of community leaders together to help our youth discover the beauty of the Haw River and understand their role in defending it. We hope you'll join us next year!

On week three, we got this encouraging letter:

"I am a grandmother who helped chaperone the 4th grade field trip from Highland yesterday. In my 20 years as an educator, this was the most memorable, best organized, and most meaningful field trip I've ever attended.

Modern life has separated our kids from nature. This was a beautiful way to connect. I can't say enough about the genuinely enthusiastic people who helped us have such a fantastic day - the musicians, actors, story teller, and group leaders. All had a love of the land that was passionate and delightful. Thank you so much for giving all of us a valuable, living lesson, unmatched by any I've ever seen."



Gets Kids Down to the River!



The Haw River Learning Celebration is made possible by the passion, efforts, and generosity of our watershed community. We would like to thank:

* All of the dedicated volunteers who gave their time to our local 4th graders * Our Executive Director Elaine Chiosso for putting her heart and soul into the Learning Celebration * The teachers, chaperones, and bus drivers who made it possible for students to come to the river * Our Safety and Logistics Coordinators, Lawrence Petersen and Doug Brown, for preparing the sites and keeping everyone safe, healthy, and happy * Bas Kimlinger for assisting with site preparation in Saxapahaw * Our intern, Laura Todd, for helping with our behind the scenes LC preparations * Maia Dery and her Guilford College students for helping out despite hectic class schedules * Rob Greenberg and the Hawbridge students for helping us in Saxapahaw * Lynn Featherstone for lending his time & truck for our rainy day Saxapahaw pack out

* Cynthia and Ken Crossen for music, kitchen coordination, and sharing their knowledge to keep the LC running smoothly * Tim, CC, Rufus, and Sutton King for working hard on every aspect of the program from setup to breakdown, concerts to cooking, and beyond * Maja Kricker and Emily Sutton for arriving early every morning to catch macros for the kids and running a top notch Stream Watch station * Everyone who donated to our crowdfunder to help us reach our \$5,000 goal * NC State Parks for the use of the Lower Haw River State Natural Area * Landowners Lea Clayton, Donovan Zimmerman, Elizabeth England and Yolanda Lujan, the Burke family, and Janet and James MacFall for giving our program a home in Saxapahaw * Jan Burger and Donovan Zimmerman for lending the Paperhand Puppet studio as a (much needed) rain site * Jason Boggs and family for providing a welcoming atmosphere at Camp Guilrock * Shakori Hills Grassroots Festival for lending us a big top tent * Kevin Mehan with Turtle Run Farms for the use of his brilliant invention, the Use Yer Foot * Jamie Saunders for lending us the camp stove that our kitchen is built around * Louise Hobbs for leading the Native American pottery project for the Clay station, and for her generous donation of clay for the school groups



* Aaron Honeycutt for his expertly preserved skins and skulls to add to our collection * Toby Turnbull for the beautiful Sissipahaw pottery shards * Kristen Kowzan, Lil Royal, Mary Lucas, Cathy Markatos, Janet Macfall, Ben Painter, Kathy Seaton, Carol Hewitt, Eliza Dubose, Eric Chetwynd, Sharon Garbutt, Wanda Sundermann, Blair Pollock, and Elaine Chiosso for their delicious food donations * Vimala's Curryblossom Café, Angelina's Farm to Table Restaurant, Carrburritos, Bella Donna Italian Restaurant, and Mediterranean Deli for meal donations * Whole Foods Market for donating a gift card * Wanda Sundermann for hosting the LC thank you party * Libby Searles-Bohs for using her artistic talent to make frames for volunteers * Milada Vachudova for documenting the LC with artfully composed photos. ***Thank you all!!!***





Standing in the Stream

Haw River Watch Project News

from Emily Sutton, Haw River Watch Coordinator,
(919) 542-5790; emily@hawriver.org

It has been an exciting start as the Haw River Watch Project Coordinator!

I immediately began preparing for the Learning Celebration, where Maja Kricker and I led stream watch programs for the fourth-graders. Each morning, we had the pleasure of observing the river in the peaceful fog, flipping over rocks and leaves to collect macroinvertebrates in the often cold or flooded waters of the Haw. With the help of Maja, C.C. King, John Wagner, and a handful of enthusiastic children, we always had plenty of water critters for the fourth-graders to observe. We began with time for the children to silently observe the river, listening to birds, insects, and the flow of the water. We learned about our ecological address, our effects on the watershed, and how to protect and monitor the watershed we live in. Asking many insightful questions, the fourth-graders were amazed by the diversity of critters we had found in the river, and eager to observe and learn about them (*see photo below left*).



Photo by Milada Vachudova

Following the Learning Celebration, I partnered with Denise O’Gorman to lead a workshop for her Woods Charter high school students. The students came to the Lower Haw River State Natural Area, where we observed the river, noticing currents, colors, smells, and much wildlife. We discussed our own ecological

impacts and the impacts of the communities along the Haw. Then, the students fearlessly ventured into the cold morning waters to sample the macroinvertebrate populations!

Thank you so much to our active River Watch teams for participating in our September “Snapshot” day. I received a flood of surveys and welcoming postcards from fifteen teams. I look forward to meeting you on the river! Please check out the River Watch page (at hawriver.org, under Projects, select “Stream Monitoring”) for an updated contact list of numbers to call if and when you spot pollution. You can download the 2015 River Watch Manual Suspected Pollution Reporting Resources.

In the past month, we have gained five new river watch teams! They are eager to join our existing teams as stewards of the Haw, protecting the waterways and wildlife habitat, and having fun along the way. Two teams were trained at our public River Monitoring in Saxapahaw during our Annual Membership meeting. Team leaders Anne Cassebaum and Katie Van Patten waded through the Haw River, dipping nets, brushing rocks, and identifying unfamiliar critters.



Photo by Emily Sutton

Maja Kricker and Dorothy Rawleigh identify macroinvertebrates for the September Snapshot day.

Welcome to these new teams! Kat Good and Blue Heron Farm, Dry Creek * Jennifer and Ted Andrews, the Haw at Indian Valley golf course * Justin Hardy, Third Fork Creek * Katie and Calvin Van Patten, Tickle Creek * Anne Cassebaum, Travis Creek.

I am still looking for teams to monitor some of the impaired waterways within the watershed, as well as donations for additional monitoring equipment. I hope to get five more teams by the end of 2016! Ben Paynter and I have been working on updated maps of the watershed, as well as the impaired waterways list. Follow our facebook page to get the updated maps as soon as they are available.



Photo by Emily Sutton

River Watchers found their site flooded after Hurricane Matthew rains, but it didn't stop them from exploring the riverbanks!

***Save the Date for our Annual
Haw River Clean-Up-A-Thon
Saturday, March 18, 2017***



Join volunteers cleaning up trash from the banks of the Haw River, the creeks, and Jordan Lake on Saturday March 18, 2017 for the Haw River Assembly's 26th Haw River Clean-Up-A-Thon. (Above: Zella and Cosmo Magoo take a break after cleaning up trash on the Haw River in 2016.)

Teams will be getting out trash in the river that's harmful to water and wildlife from Guilford County down to Jordan Lake. Other teams will be working along creeks in Greensboro, Burlington Durham, Chapel Hill, Carrboro, and Pittsboro. Join a team or start your own – youth groups with adult supervision are welcome to join. We provide the bags and gloves, you provide the people power!

Since 1991, 4,704 volunteers have cleaned up 8,676 bags of trash, 1,672 tires, and many tons of car parts, appliances, furniture and other big junk from our waterways! Some of our weirdest finds have been rubber sharks, chickens and turtles; 1905 NJ birth certificate; a fake eyeball; and balls from every sport imaginable!

Help us get the trash out! For more information and to sign up, contact HRA at (919) 542-5790, or email us at info@hawriver.org.

Haw River State Park News

Iron Ore Belt Access, Haw River State Park, 6068 Church Street, Greensboro, NC 27455

If you haven't hiked it yet, plan a visit this winter to the new trail at the Haw River State Park north of Greensboro. The Iron Ore Belt Access, off North Church Street north of NC 150, is the park's initial development on a 692-acre property that was considered for a golf course community before it was acquired by the state parks system in 2008. Haw River Assembly was part of the lobbying effort in Guilford County to use zoning tools to encourage this piece of land to be sold to be part of the state park. The 3.2-mile Great Blue Heron Trail loops through varied wildlife habitats and plant communities of forest, old farmland, and wetlands along the headwaters of the Haw River. The park's master plan calls for further development on the property, including camping facilities, picnic grounds and additional trails – amenities that will ultimately help support hikers on the Mountains-to-Sea State Trail. The Iron Ore Belt Access is open 7 days a week, with parking and bathroom facilities. For more info call 336-342-6163.

HRA has published a new brochure and map about the Lower Haw River State Natural Area.

This is the 1,100 acres of scenic river corridor land along the Haw in Chatham County. Our brochure includes where to access the hiking and paddling trails, and the special plants and animals you might see along the way. Special thanks to the Triangle Community Foundation for funding the brochure. You can request a copy from us by mail (HRA, P.O. Box 187, Bynum NC 27228) or download it from our website at <http://hawriver.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/LHRSNA-brochure.pdf>.

The New 2017 HRA Clyde Jones "Dragonfly" T-Shirt is Here

Designed by Clyde Jones, this colorful print is on a soft eggplant purple 100% organic cotton T-shirt by TS Designs in Burlington, using their environmentally friendly non-toxic printing process.

\$25 (adult) S, M, L, XL, XXL
\$25 (ladies style) S, M, L, XL
\$20 (youth) S, M, L

Available at the HRA office in Bynum (919-542-5790) or info@hawriver.org to inquire about our hours or shipping), Townsend Bertram in Carrboro, Saxapahaw General Store, & The Joyful Jewel in Pittsboro.



*** Special Holiday Sale * Give a Gift for the River!**

This December, HRA's office will once again be transformed into a holiday shop with many years of colorful Haw River shirts for sale, all designed by Clyde Jones, Bynum's world famous folk artist. Vintage shirts from \$5 - \$15, as well as our brand new shirt at \$25. Copies of the beautiful new "River" art book and "Down Along the Haw", history of the Haw River by Anne Cassebaum, will also be for sale (both are for \$25, with proceeds to HRA).

Come by the HRA Bynum office, 199 Bynum Hill Road, in Bynum (use Pittsboro 27312 for a map search).

Open weekdays 10 am to 5 pm, Mon. Dec. 5 through Thurs. Dec. 22 (you may wish to call first to make sure we are in, 919-542-5790)

Open on Saturdays Dec. 3, 10, and 17, 10 am to 2 pm.

Upcoming 2017 HRA Events

December 3 - 22, 2016, Annual HRA Holiday Sale at the HRA office in Bynum T-shirts galore - and books! See details on page 7.

December 17-18, 2016, Haw River Watch Monitoring weekend. Contact Emily at emily@hawriver.org or 919-542-5790 for more info.

Saturday, January 8, 2017, New Year's Hike along Lower Haw River State Natural Area. For more info, visit www.hawriver.org, or contact info@hawriver.org or (919) 542-5790.

Saturday, March 18, 2017, Haw River Assembly Annual River Cleanup (Clean-Up-A-Thon). See details on page 7.

March 25-26, 2017, Haw River Watch Monitoring weekend. Contact Emily at emily@hawriver.org or 919-542-5790 for more info.



Photo by Emily Sutton

Haw River Watchers might find a dragonfly nymph like this one, with wing development, found in the Haw River.

Updates and details can be found at www.hawriver.org, on our Haw River Assembly Facebook page, and from our weekly E-newsletters which you can sign up for at info@hawriver.org.



Photo by Elaine Chiosso

Jo Sanders, HRA Board Treasurer, enjoys the Iron Ore Belt access trail (see story on p. 7).

**Haw River
Clean-Up-A-Thon
Sat. March 18, 2017**

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